

PATENT

S/N 10/022,095

Remarks

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed on August 24, 2005. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claim 4 includes allowable subject matter, and that claim 6 is allowed. Claims 1-5 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 6 remains pending. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

In sections 2-6 of the Action, claims 1-3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0 748 968 B1 ("EP '968") in view of Vignotto (U.S. Patent No. 5,090,236). This rejection is traversed, and the correctness of the rejection is not conceded. Reconsideration is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1-3 and 5 are canceled. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection are therefore respectfully requested.

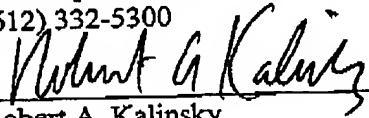
In sections 7 and 8 of the Action, claim 4 is noted as being allowable, and claim 6 is noted as being allowed. Claim 6 is in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney with any questions regarding the application.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: October 24, 2005


Robert A. Kalinsky
Reg. No. 50,471